



NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS
ASSOCIATION

October 29, 2015

Re: Co-sponsor PennSTAR- Sustainable Technology Assistance for Retrofits Act

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania chapters of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), an organization representing nearly 200 PA businesses –many of these are small and medium sized family businesses that work in your district-- I would like to urge you to co-sponsor Senator John Blake’s legislation that would create “PennSTAR-Sustainable Technology Assistance for Retrofits Act.”

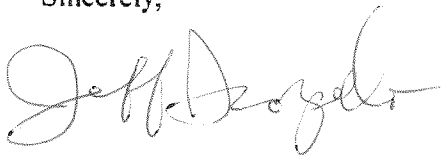
This legislation would enable counties and municipalities to allow commercial and industrial real estate owners to utilize an alternative financing option to install energy efficiency, clean energy, and water conservation projects on their property. These would include installing energy systems that utilize alternative energy such as those stipulated by the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act (P.L. 1672, No. 213), retrofitting an existing building to meet high-performance standards, or installing projects that reduce water usage, to name a few. The loans used to finance the energy efficiency improvements would then be repaid through long-term payback periods of up to about 20 years as an assessment on the property taxes. There are no state or local tax dollars used to repay the loans and this is not a government grant program. The tenant or the owner repays the loans.

Nationally, this financing tool is known as “Property Assessed Clean Energy” financing or “PACE” financing. PACE financing is helping commercial property owners to save money and increase the value of their properties by making them more energy efficient or sites for renewable energy generation. It is entirely voluntary, affects no other property owners, and has minimal impact on local governments. It has been proven effective in solving the upfront cost barrier that has hindered the adoption of energy efficiency and related projects in our nation. While a tremendous amount of money can be saved from having energy-efficient technology installed, the upfront cost can be prohibitive. PACE financing helps to fill the gap and makes projects affordable. Importantly, PACE financing creates and sustains local jobs. Currently, 29 states plus the District of

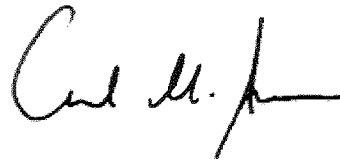
Columbia authorize PACE financing; this includes states such as Alabama, California, Georgia, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Texas, and more.

NECA urges you to sign on as a co-sponsor of this legislation and support the implementation of a PACE program through the "PennSTAR – Sustainable Technology Assistance for Retrofits Act," because it will help to accelerate the adoption of energy efficient technology in construction across Pennsylvania. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and consider our request.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey P. Scarpello
Executive Director
Penn-Del-Jersey Chapter, NECA
2003 Renaissance Boulevard
King of Prussia, PA 19406



Chad M. Jones
Executive Director
Western Pennsylvania Chapter, NECA
5 Hot Metal Street, Suite 301
Pittsburgh, PA 15203